

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
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FOR AMB YOUNG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF MARCH 31-APRIL 1 MEDIA REACTION.

2. CARTER TRIP. U.S. MEDIA APRIL 1 FOCUSED ON TWO THEMES IN PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO NIGERIA: HIS CALL FOR PROGRESSIVE TRANSFORMATION OF SOUTH AFRICA, AND HIS WARNING AGAINST OUTSIDE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN AFRICA PRESIDENT WAS WIDELY QUOTED IN HIS REFERENCE TO "A GREAT MAN FROM MY OWN STATE," DR. KING . . . NIGERIA - ITS PEOPLE, ECONOMY AND GOVERNMENT - RECEIVED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN U.S. PRESS ON EVE OF PRESIDENTIAL VISIT NYTIMES (KAUFMAN) MARCH 31 REPORTED PAST U.S.-NIGERIAN TENSIONS AND SAID "NOW, SUSPICION OF U.S. HAS GIVEN WAY TO RESPECTFUL REGARD AS CARTER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS, LED BY ANDREW YOUNG, HAVE MADE OVERTURES TO THE NIGERIANS. NIGERIAN POWER, BOTH ECONOMIC AND MILITARY, HAS BEEN CITED BY THE PRESIDENT, BY SECSTATE VANCE AND MR. YOUNG AS
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PLAYING A MAJOR ROLE IN ATTEMPTS TO RESOLVE CONFLICTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA". . . . ON CARTER VISIT TO BRAZIL, CSMONITOR (SOUTHERLAND) WROTE MARCH 31 THAT PRESIDENT WAS SUCCESSFUL IN "WALKING ON EGGSHELLS," ESPECIALLY ON ISSUES OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION. ARTICLE SAID "IN THE VIEW OF ONE SENIOR BRAZILIAN NEWSMAN, MR. CARTER HANDLED THE SENSITIVITY AND PRIDE OF THE BRAZILIAN

LEADERSHIP WITH DEFTNESS WHICH BORDERED ON THE 'BRILLIANT.'"

3. RHODESIA. LONDON FINANCIAL TIMES (JUREK MARTIN) REPORTED FROM WASHINGTON THAT "STATE DEPARTMENT HAS FROM TIME TO TIME DISSOCIATED ITSELF FROM THE FORCEFUL LANGUAGE MR. YOUNG IS PRONE TO USE AND HIS OCCASIONAL FREE INTERPRETATION OF DIPLOMATIC NICETIES, BUT REPORTS OF SUBSTANTIAL POLICY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE UN AMBASSADOR AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAVE BEEN MISPLACED. THERE REMAINS CONCERN IN THE ADMINISTRATION THAT POLITICAL PRESSURES AT WORK IN BRITAIN MIGHT WEAKEN THE RESOLVE OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO STICK TO THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN IN THE LIGHT OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. IN THE COURSE OF THE LAST MONTH, MR. CALLAGHAN AND DR. OWEN HAVE ASSURED THE U.S. OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE JOINT APPROACH. MR. YOUNG, WITH THE BACKING OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND INFLUENTIAL CONGRESSMEN SUCH AS SENATOR DICK CLARK, HAS REDOUBLED HIS EFFORTS TO SECURE A WIDER SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM THAT WOULD EMBRACE THE EXTERNAL NATIONALIST GROUPS. THE U.S. REMAINS SCEPTICAL THAT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT CAN LAST AND HAS MADE NO BONES OF ITS FEAR THAT ABANDONMENT OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WOULD LEAVE THE GUERRILLAS FEW OPTIONS BUT TO TURN TO RUSSIA AND CUBA FOR ASSISTANCE". . . A.P. APRIL 1 SAID FORMER BRITISH PM HAROLD WILSON UNCLASSIFIED

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"LASHED OUT" AGAINST AMB. YOUNG ON RHODESIA ISSUE. WILSON QUOTED AS SAYING: "EVEN THE MOST ENTHUSIASTIC PRO-AMERICANS AMONG US CANNOT IN TRUTH TESTIFY TO A SPIRIT OF U.S. HELPFULNESS PERVADEING THESE PAST YEARS. INDEED, AT A CRITICAL TIME, THEIR DECISION TO BREAK SANCTIONS ON CHROME SHIPMENTS WAS AN ENCOURAGEMENT NOT ONLY TO THE ILLEGAL REGIME (IN RHODESIA), BUT TO WOULD-BE SANCTIONS CHEATS IN OTHER COUNTRIES". . . WASHPOST (OTTAWAY) MARCH 31 REPORTED FROM LAGOS: "MILITANT NATIONALIST LEADERS IN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA HAVE MADE MAJOR CONCESSIONS AND NOW APPEAR READY TO ACCEPT MOST PROVISIONS OF WESTERN PROPOSALS FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THEIR INTERNAL CONFLICTS, ACCORDING TO WESTERN DIPLOMATS HERE. 'WE HAVE DELIVERED OUR CLIENTS AND NOW IT IS UP TO YOU TO DELIVER YOURS,' TANZANIAN PRESIDENT JULIUS NYERERE IS REPORTED IN EFFECT TO HAVE TOLD US AMB. ANDREW YOUNG AFTER THE FRONTLINE STATE MEETING LAST WEEKEND. YOUNG'S 'CLIENTS' THAT NYERERE REFERRED TO ARE SOUTH AFRICA AND THE NEW MULTI-RACIAL TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT IN RHODESIA, BOTH OF WHICH MUST NOW BE PERSUADED BY THE BRITISH AND AMERICANS TO ACCEPT WESTERN PROPOSALS BEFORE THERE IS A RESOLUTION OF THE WORSENING GUERRILLA WARS IN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA."

4. NAMIBIA. NYTIMES (BURNS) APRIL 1 REPORTED FROM WIND-HOEK THAT KILLING OF CHIEF KAPUWO "SEEMS CERTAIN TO INFLUENCE THE COURSE OF EVENTS IN THE TERRITORY THAT BECAUSE OF ITS GEOGRAPHIC SITUATION IS LIKELY TO BE CAUGHT UP IN THE CONFLICT BETWEEN BLACK-RULED AFRICAN COUNTRIES

AND SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF." ARTICLE SAYS SOUTH AFRICAN OF-

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FICIALS ESTIMATE PRIVATELY THAT SWAPO WOULD WIN AT LEAST 40 PERCENT OF VOTE IN FREE ELECTIONS, AND THAT DEMOCRATIC TURNHALLE ALLIANCE WOULD RECEIVE "AT LEAST EQUAL SUPPORT." STORY CONCLUDES THAT JUDGING BY "ANGRY REACTION TO THE KAPUWO KILLING," SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT DECISION FOR INTERNAL SOLUTION "IS CLOSER TO ADOPTION NOW THAN EVER BEFORE."

5. HORN OF AFRICA. MAJOR MEDIA REPORTED APRIL 1 THAT WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL ABOARD PRESIDENTIAL PLANE SAID CUBAN TROOPS ARE NOW FIGHTING IN ETHIOPIA AGAINST SECESSIONISTS IN ERITREA MEDIA ALSO REPORTED MARCH 31 THAT STATE DEPARTMENT RAISED ESTIMATE OF NUMBER OF CUBAN TROOPS IN ETHIOPIA TO 15,000 IN THE OGADEN, A.P. REPORTED APRIL 1, ETHNIC SOMALI REBELS CLAIMED THEY LAUNCHED A SECOND MAJOR ATTACK AGAINST ETHIOPIAN FORCES SINCE SOMALIA WITHDREW REGULAR UNITS FROM THE CONFLICT.

6. MIDEAST. UN COMMANDER ERSKINE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON SAID APRIL 1 THAT HIS TROOPS WOULD FIRE BACK IF FIRED

UPON, A.P. REPORTED A.P. FROM CAIRO REPORTED
APRIL 1 THAT SADAT SAID THERE WAS "NO CHANGE AT ALL" IN
EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI NEGOTIATING POSITIONS AFTER TWO DAYS
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OF TALKS WITH ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN. SADAT
SAID HE HOPED PRESIDENT CARTER CAN GIVE MOMENTUM TO PEACE
PROCESS NYTIMES (HOWE) APRIL 1 REPORTED FROM BEIRUT
THAT PLO FORCES WERE OBSERVING CEASE-FIRE.

7. UNITED NATIONS. JAMES RESTON IN MARCH 31 NYTIMES
COLUMN PRAISED U.S. ACTION ON SITUATION IN LEBANON: "WHEN
THE MAJOR NATIONS HAVE THE WILL TO USE THE U.S. IN EMER-
GENCIES, AS THEY DID AFTER ISRAEL'S COUNTER-INVASION OF
LEBANON, THE U.S. CAN ACT WITH ADMIRABLE DISPATCH." RES-
TON WROTE THAT SYG WALDHEIM "IS TRYING NOW TO EXPAND THE
ROLE OF THE U.S. IN TWO DIFFERENT WAYS" - WALDHEIM "HOP-
ING THAT SOME KIND OF EXPLORATORY CONSULTATIONS CAN BEGIN
HERE (AT U.N.) TO KEEP THE MIDEAST TALKS GOING. AND HE IS
WORRIED THAT THE DECLINE IN U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS MAY
IMPEDE PROGRESS AT THE U.N. DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE HERE
IN MAY." RESTON SAYS WALDHEIM WANTS CARTER-BREZHNEV MEET-
ING AT U.N. IN MAY SO THEY CAN "REMOVE SUSPICIONS THAT ARE
NOW HAMPERING NEGOTIATIONS" ON STRATEGIC ARMS. WELLS

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